

S. 1 Ethics and Lobbying Reform Fact Sheet

'Bundling' Disclosure Requirements

The measure requires campaign committees — including a candidate's campaign committee, a party committee, or a leadership political action committee (PAC) — to provide reports to the FEC two times a year on the "bundled" campaign contributions they receive from a lobbyist or a committee established or controlled by a lobbyist that are in excess of \$15,000 for six months, or \$30,000 per year.

Under the measure, bundled contributions include contributions forwarded to the committee by the lobbyist that are credited to the lobbyist through records, designations, or other means of recognition. The required report would include the name, address and employer of each lobbyist "reasonably" known to have provided two or more bundled contributions, as well as the total amount of contributions provided by that lobbyist.

Post-Congressional Employment

'Revolving Door' Restrictions/'Cooling Off' Period

The compromise measure imposes different time periods on members of the Senate and the House. It extends to two years the period of time during which senators are prohibited from lobbying, while requiring a one-year period for Senate officers, as well as staff members who make 75% of the salary of a senator for at least 60 days of their last year of employment.

The legislation does not affect House members or staff.

The measure extends to two years, from the current one year, the cooling-off period for very senior personnel in executive branch offices and independent agencies, including the vice president.

Post-Congressional Job Negotiations

The measure amends House rules by adding a new rule that prohibits members from negotiating or reaching agreement on a future job or compensation package until a successor has been elected — unless that member, within three days of the commencement of the negotiations or agreement, files a statement with the Ethics Committee that discloses the negotiations or agreement, including the name of the private entity.

It also requires an officer or employee of the House who makes 75% of the salary paid to a member to notify the ethics committee that he or she is negotiating, or has reached agreement, on future employment or compensation.

Lobbying Disclosure & Registration Requirements

The measure expands and modifies existing registration and disclosure requirements for registered lobbyists. It requires quarterly, rather than semi-annual reports, requires that they be filed electronically, and also requires that they be made available to the public. The measure mandates semi-annual disclosures of certain campaign contributions.

Quarterly Reports

The measure amends current law to require lobbyists to file quarterly reports, rather than semiannual reports.

The measure also amends the registration requirements to cover more lobbyists by reducing certain dollar amounts above which certain disclosures must be filed. Under the bill, registration is required if the lobbying activities on behalf of a client exceeds \$2,500, half of the current \$5,000, or total lobbying activities of \$10,000 per quarter, rather than the \$20,000 per six-month period under current law.

Electronic Filing Requirement

The measure requires lobbyists who are required to make reports under current law to file a report in electronic form.

Semi-annual Reports on Campaign Contributions & Other Contacts

The bill requires that semi-annual reports be filed by registered lobbyists with the House Clerk and Secretary of the Senate that disclose the following:

- The name of the person or organization and the name of their employer;
- The names of political committees that they establish or control;
- The name of each candidate, officeholder, leadership political action committee or political party committee to which they have contributed more than \$200 in the six-month period, as well as the date and amount of the contribution;
- The dates, recipients, and amounts contributed to cover costs of events honoring an official in the legislative or executive branch, to an entity named for such a legislative branch official, to an entity established by a legislative or executive

official, or to pay the costs of a meeting, retreat, or conference held by or in the name of such an official;

- The name of each presidential library foundation and inaugural committee to which they contribute more than \$200 in the six-month period, as well as the date and amount;
- A certification that the filing person or organization has read and is familiar with House and Senate gift and travel rules and has not provided, requested, or directed gifts or travel, knowing that it would violate such rules.

Unlike the House bill, however, it does not require disclosures of contributions to 527 groups.

Prohibit Gifts & Travel From Lobbyists

The measure prohibits lobbyists from providing gifts or travel to covered legislative branch officials if that person has knowledge that the gift or travel may not be accepted under House or Senate rules. This provision would take effect upon enactment.

Civil Penalties

The measure quadruples the civil penalties for failure to comply with lobbying disclosure requirements to \$200,000, from the current \$50,000. (

Criminal Penalties

Like both the Senate and House-passed bills, the measure creates new criminal penalties for those who "knowingly and corruptly" fail to comply with any provision of the Lobbying Disclosure Act. Those penalties would include up to five years in jail, fines, or both.

Revoke Pensions of Convicted Members

The House amendments deny the federal government's contribution to a member's pension to a member convicted of certain felonies, which would apply to both the Federal Employee Retirement System and the Civil Service Retirement System. Members could still receive their payments into the system.

Bar Contact with Lobbyist Spouses

The bill changes House rules to require members to prohibit their staff from having "lobbying contact" with his or her spouse if that spouse is a registered lobbyist, or if the spouse is employed or retained by a lobbyist.

Lobbyist-Sponsored Events at Conventions

The measure prohibits House members from participating in an event at a national convention that honors him or her, other than in his or her capacity as a candidate for president or vice president, if the event is paid for by a registered lobbyist.